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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEALS
Turkey Might Send 50,000 Troops to Iraq - Milliyet
US Suggests Disarming PKK/KADEK in Northern Iraq -
Milliyet
Government Steps Back in Imam-Hatip Controversy -
Hurriyet
IMF Praises Turkey for Reaching Targets - Hurriyet
US Targeted for the First Time in Palestine - Sabah
PM Reaches Agreement With Rectors - Sabah

OPINION MAKERS
Kurds Threaten Turkey Again -Cumhuriyet
Latest Suggestion from Washington: "Let's Disarm
PKK/KADEK"
Imam-Hatip Crisis Comes to an End - Radikal
Government Plans Tough Action Against Corruption -
Zaman
Rice: "Turkish Troop Deployment in Iraq is a Sensitive
Issue" - Yeni Safak

BRIEFING

Government Plans Against Corruption: All papers cover Justice Minister Cemil Cicek's statement on the new draft against corruption. "Hurriyet" and "Radikal" note that the government has pledged to take serious action, primarily against those who defraud the banking system. Minister Cicek vowed that those responsible for bank fraud would stay in jail until their debts are repaid. Under the new draft, the task of collecting failed bank debts will be transferred from the Banking Supervisory Board to the Treasury.

Iraqi Interim Government Repeats Opposition to Turkish Troop Deployment: "Cumhuriyet" reports that Iraqi Interim government representatives attending the OIC summit in Malaysia reiterated that they did not want additional foreign peacekeeping troops in Iraq. The IGC members stressed that they are working on a formula for establishing security in Iraq on their own.

US Proposal on the PKK/KADEK: "Cumhuriyet" reports that in a meeting with undersecretary Ugur Ziyal on Tuesday, Ambassador Edelman proposed that the organization be disarmed rather than eliminated in Northern Iraq. Edelman reportedly said that if the PKK/KADEK were disarmed, it would no longer pose a threat to Turkey. Although Turkey was not happy about the proposal, MFA officials said that this was the first concrete step taken by the US on the PKK/KADEK issue.

IMF Completes Sixth Review: State Minister Babacan announced that the IMF completed the sixth review of Turkey's IMF program last night. IMF Turkey Desk chief Moghadam said that the government had reached or surpassed all IMF targets for 2003. Reports highlighted the fact that the government was not forced to raise prices of natural gas and electricity in order to satisfy the IMF. In addition, the Government persuaded the IMF to accept an incentive system to

encourage investment in underdeveloped provinces of Turkey. The IMF had initially opposed such an idea.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq

"Iraq and America"

Taha Akyol commented in the mass appeal Milliyet (10/16): "Normally it would be expected that immediately after a parliamentary decree such as that passed last week, the US would begin negotiating with Turkey about the terms of its troop deployment. Yet we see that this is not happening. Condoleezza Rice is making interesting remarks, referring to Turkey's deployment as a 'sensitive issue.' Rice said that the US is 'continuing talks with the sides.' I think she meant to say that the US is trying to find a way for Turkey to send its troops without making Barzani and Talabani angry. This is what a high-level official in Ankara told me: 'If we hear a suggestion by the Americans about flying over northern Iraq or passing through Syria, the negotiation process [with the US] will be ended right there.' . Turkish officials believe that Turkey should use the route from Turkey to Iraq, the same route used for oil and food deliveries to American troops. The US seems to rely solely on the Kurds in Iraq. The Arabs are very annoyed about the US's favoritism, and they are now making efforts to isolate the Kurds. The US should act with a better vision and greater common sense. The turmoil in Iraq will harm Turkey, but it will be the US who will suffer from terrorism more than anyone else."

"Tougher Days Ahead for Turkey"

Retired diplomat Yalim Eralp wrote in the sensational Yarin (10/16): "There is constant change in world affairs, and Turkey cannot consider itself exempt from this process. However, Turkey has not yet fine-tuned its foreign policy, particularly on issues related to the US and the EU. . For instance, Cyprus issue is an indispensable part of the EU process. There is no way for Turkey to move ahead before settling the Cyprus issue. . Turkey will also not be able to keep its negotiating position with the EU while keeping the Turkish-Armenian border closed. Turkey should resolve this problem as well right after the elections in Azerbaijan. At the same time, these issues are very much related to Turkish-American relations. Ambassador Eric Edelman has already reminded Turkey about the need to open the border gate. Let's not forget that both the US and the EU share similar views about the Cyprus issue. . On Iraq, Turkey has moved relatively closer to the American vision. Now it should be integrated with U.S. Middle East policy as well. Turkey's diplomacy toward the US regarding the Iran and Syria issues will not be easy. We, for instance, cannot remain blind about Iran's nuclear activities."

EDELMAN